Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 08297 010914Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /076 W
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R 010810Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1186
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8297

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CG, GV
SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE TO VISIT ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 8129

1. ZAIRIAN NEWS MEDIA REPORTED JULY 30 THAT PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE OF GUINEA WOULD BE PAYING A VISIT TO ZAIRE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH QUOTED SOURCES CLOSE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S OFFICE, STATED THAT THE GUINEAN PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE PART IN THE NOVEMBER 24 CELEBRATIONS OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ZAIRE'S SECOND REPUBLIC. THESE SAME ZAIRIAN MEDIA REPORTS NOTED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD VISITED GUINEA ON THE 24TH OF JUNE, 1972. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT SEKOU
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 08297 010914Z

TOURE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO PAY A RETURN VISIT IN NOVEMBER OF THAT SAME YEAR, BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY THIS RETURN VISIT HAD NEVER TAKEN PLACE.

2. COMMEND: ZAIRIAN/GUINEAN RELATIONS HAVE HAD THEIR UPS AND SOWNS (WITH PERHAPS MORE DOWNS THAN UPS). 1972 WAS ONE HIGHPOINT. MOBUTU LED HIS GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE LEFT BY HIS 1971

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"AUTHENTICITY" PROGRAM, HIS 1973 "ZAIRIANIZATION" OF FOREIGN BUSINESSES, AND HIS 1974 "RADICALIZATION" PROGRAM. AFTERWARDS, MOBUTU MOVED TO THE RIGHT AND RELATIONS WITH GUINEA DETERIORATED. INDEED, ONLY LAST YEAR A FORMAL BREAK IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES APPEARED TO BE A POSSIBILITY.

3. PRESIDENT MOBUTU REPORTEDLY MET WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE TWICE DURING THE RECENT KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT, ONCE BILATERALLY AND AGAIN WITH ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO PARTICIPATING. LATTER WOULD INDICATE THAT SEKOU TOURE PLAYED SOME ROLE IN BRINGING NETO AND MOBUTU TOGETHER. THIS, PLUS POSSIBILITY MOBUTU MAY SEE OF BRINGING SEKOU TOURE INTO CAMP OF AFRICAN MODERATES, MAY HAVE INDUCED RENEWAL OF INVITATION. WE ARE, HOWEVER, PUZZLED CONCERNING SEKOU TOURE'S MOTIVES IN ACCEPTING THE INVITATION. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY OBSERVATIONS EMBASSY CONAKRY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE.
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